



Vegetation Managers See Other Side of Roads

Ernie Comagon's bright orange truck bounced and shivered up the rutty mountain trail near Mt. Laguna. Within minutes his chainsaw whined through a large tree stump. Nearby, Tony Stanley's saw bit into another stump. Jim Cronk spread sporadic on a recently cut tree not far away.

Terry Bozarth winds his truck along a narrow Valley Center byway to check plans with contractor Kim Smith of Powerland Equipment, who's mowing shoulders along Lilac Road.

Comagon is vegetation manager at Division I. He, like Bozarth in Division II, responds to citizen complaints about trees and shrubs, provides technical assistance for various departments and agencies, reviews encroachment permits for vegetation planting and removal and irrigation projects within the road rights of way and develops contract specifications. Working with his supervisor, Jim Cronk, Comagon gets into a variety of situations and locations.

"This job always changes," he says. "One day we're cutting trees, the next we're solving problems for our customers."

Bozarth likes the variety as well. As a road crew supervisor, he's got more on his plate than vegetation, but he enjoys dealing with the plants and trees in his area.

"I can tell you what almost every plant is in this area," he says, pointing to a green hillside that looks like overgrown brush to an uninformed observer. "I really enjoy being out here and dealing with these issues."

Both vegetation managers work with the County's agriculture staff to

provide safe weed and brush abatement. Each also works with mowing contractors to keep roads safe by clearing brush and weeds that block a driver's sightline.

Though not as well known as some DPW jobs, vegetation managers provide valuable customer service to motorists and residents in San Diego County.



Ernie Comagon cuts a tree stump near Mt. Laguna.



Terry Bozarth with contractor mowing road shoulder.

ONE OF THE MOST SENSITIVE and complicated projects in recent DPW history is finally coming to an end—closure of the San Marcos Landfill. This action is in no small part thanks to the hard work, long hours and persistence of our staff who recently obtained the final necessary regulatory agency approval.

Inactive Landfill, Capital Projects Development, Environmental Services and Construction Engineering folks, as well as others, dug in to prepare and plan the process and are now ready to move forward with implementation. The Board of Supervisors approved the procurement of the cover soil and the advertisement and award of contract for construction of the final cover system project this month.

The landfill, which operated from 1978 until 1997, now needs 440,000 cubic yards of soil to cover and close the area. Once that's in place, we'll begin a revegetation program to meet environmental regulations.

While there's still a lot of work to do, we've achieved a major milestone in a very high profile project. Congratulations and thanks to those who've worked so diligently to accomplish the goal.



John Snyder,
Director

YOU, U-TURNS and BEING SAFE

by Carl Spiron, Safety Officer

Flipping a “u-ee” may seem like a quick way to get back to where you’ve just been. It can also be a quick way to cause an accident.

U-turns, especially when driving or towing large equipment, are unsafe at best and down right dangerous most of the time. Why? Even when they’re legal, U-turns cause accidents because other drivers on the road are not expecting them, because we tend to “push the envelope” and guess we can complete the maneuver before that onrushing car gets to us, or we miss our estimate of the room we have to turn and end up getting stuck next to a curb or blocking an intersection.



When and where can you legally make a U-turn?

- Across a double yellow line, if the turn can be made safely and legally.
- In a residential district
- If no vehicle approaching you is closer than 200 feet.
- Whenever a traffic sign or signal protects you from vehicles that are close.
- At an intersection on a green light or green arrow unless a “No U-turn” sign is posted.

For more information on U-turns, visit the U.S. Department of Transportation web site at:

<http://www.nrd.nhtsa.dot.gov/pdf/nrd-30/NCSA/TSF2002/2002trkfacts.pdf>

Training

What Do Required Disciplines, Good Ideas and User Groups Have in Common?

by Kirsten Aaboe Hope,
Training Officer

It's springtime. This is a sure-fire guarantee that good ideas will be popping up along with the bulbs we planted last year!

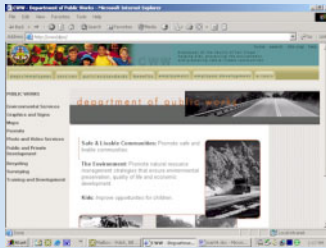
The Good Ideas program this year is focused on process improvements aligned with the County's Strategic Initiatives: Kids, Safe & Livable Communities and the Environment. These are the prizes we all need to keep our eyes on, and what our processes should enhance.



see **What in Common?** page 4

DPW Goes Live on Intranet

After months of research, input, testing and retesting, DPW's Intranet is now live on a desktop near



you. You'll find information about services the department offers you and other County employees. It's on the web at <http://cwv/dpw>.

"What you see is the result of a lot of dedi-

cated and patient work by DPW employees who have seen this through its various draft stages to

production," said Kirsten Aaboe Hope, who led the effort.

The first phase was developed to identify services DPW provides to County departments. Phase II will focus on services for DPW employees.

"If you think anything should be included in either Phase I or Phase II areas, please let me know and we'll take a look at your idea," said Aaboe Hope, who is looking for ideas for other information to include. "The idea behind our Intranet is that it will continually evolve and improve to provide more easily accessible information to County employees," Aaboe Hope said.

D I V I S I O N S

N E W S

Management Services

GREEN BUSINESS Program Launch

DPW's Recycling team joined in as the San Diego Area Green Business Program was launched March 11, at Mira Mesa Automotive Repair. The program is a joint effort of the County of San Diego and several partner agencies, private and public.

Supervisor Pam Slater-Price hosted the event. She described some of the environmental steps businesses will take to qualify as a "Green Business Participant," including: hazardous materials code compliance, use of less toxic Best Management Practices, energy and water conservation, and recycling or solid waste reduction.

Slater-Price praised Mira Mesa Automotive Repair for several environment-friendly business practices they have already taken.

The County will recognize businesses that participate in the program with publicity, including a "Green Business Participant" window sticker that patrons can look for.



Supervisor Pam Slater-Price listens to Gary Anderberg, President of the Automotive Service Council, San Diego Chapter, during launching ceremonies for San Diego Area Green Business Program.

Transportation

Dates Set for Airport Events

Springtime brings out sunshine, flowers and airplanes. Airplanes?

County Airports hosts three major aviation events this spring including Fallbrook Airpark's Open House, Wings Over Gillespie and the Ramona Air Fair.

Fallbrook's open house is scheduled Sunday April 25 from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. Held in conjunction with the community's annual Avocado Festival, the event features up-close looks at experimental aircraft, ultralight planes and demonstrations of remote controlled model airplanes and helicopters.

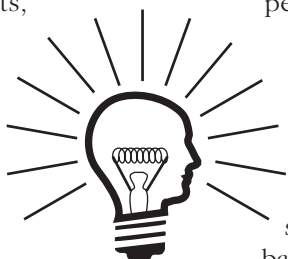
Wings Over Gillespie, April 30 through May 2, is the annual tribute to military aviation, especially the men and women who flew missions during World War II. Many of the historic airplanes from that era will be at Gillespie Field in El Cajon during the event.

see **Airport Events**, page 4

What in Common?

(continued)

Our department's Good Ideas are bubbling to the surface as we speak: ways to eliminate delays, prioritize our work to focus on essentials, reduce paper, share resources, bundle work so things get done more quickly, ways to share knowledge to help each other, grouping resources and loaning materials to cut down on copying and distribution costs, putting information on the Intranet to make it available to a wide audience. All kinds of process improvements are waiting to be discovered to make our lives easier and get the job done better and cheaper.



In order to support the three initiatives, we need to make sure we are adhering to the County Strategic Plan's required disciplines:

- Fiscal stability
- Customer satisfaction
- Regional leadership
- Skilled, competent workforce
- Essential infrastructure
- Information management
- Accountability/transparency
- Continuous improvement

One of the Good Ideas submitted thus far is to form User Groups to

share knowledge on the Oracle Projects & Grants in the spirit of teamwork and to create a more highly skilled and competent workforce.

The user groups will consist of people whose roles in ERP Oracle Finance are similar.

Those people who need to know can share their problems with those who know and have a solution to that problem. People can train each other on how to get the job done better and also free up the people who've been asked the same question repeatedly.

By focusing on a positive, solution-based structure with people who have the same concerns, learning will really take place in a supportive, generous, team-based environment. This is definitely a Good Idea we can feel good about supporting.

Transportation

Airport Events

(continued)

The Ramona Air Fair is one of the largest County-sponsored events each year. Fire fighting airplanes and helicopters, military aircraft, home-builts and experimental airplanes will be on display June 26–27 at Ramona Airport.

Names of Note

Promotions

Dave Toth – Assistant Road Superintendent to Road Superintendent, Division II

Bruce Chastain – Assistant Road Superintendent to Road Superintendent, Division I

Terry Bozarth – Senior Equipment Operator to Road Crew Supervisor

New Hires

Daniel Baay – Public Works Trainee, Fallbrook Road Station

Kevin Dalton – Public Works Trainee, Ramona Road Station

Transfers

Michael Burkel – Fallbrook Road Station to San Marcos Road Station

Brad Hill – Valley Center Road Station to Fallbrook Road Station

Burt Quick – Stormwater II to Valley Center Road Station

Rudy Ramirez – Fallbrook Road Station to Stormwater II

Milestones



Don Jordan – Senior Equipment Operator, San Marcos Road Station



William Blankinship – Senior Equipment Operator, Ramona Road Station



Terry Bozarth – Senior Equipment Operator, Stormwater II

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